



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## DISABLED PEOPLE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

17 March 2005

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

### FIRE SAFETY AND DISABLED PEOPLE

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the progress being made in implementing adjustments to physical features and procedures to ensure the safe evacuation of disabled people.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Following a review of evacuation procedures in the main administrative buildings, a number of specific adjustments to both buildings and processes have been implemented. Some of the adjustments impact specifically on the safe evacuation of disabled people. These are itemised below.

- 2.2 Procedural adjustments:

- personal evacuation plans for new and existing disabled employees
- improved guidance in fire evacuation procedures in relation to disabled people
- ground floor meeting room priority booking procedure
- improved Fire Marshall training

Physical adjustments:

- provision of Evac Chairs in upper floor refuge areas
- telephone link from Council House upper floor refuge areas to fire panel control area
- construction of ramped egress from Council House ground floor corridor to River Gardens
- improved signage

- 2.3 Whilst the main focus has been on the main administrative buildings, the guidance and requirement for fire evacuation plans for disabled people applies council-wide. Fire risk assessments and evacuation procedures, as with other general health and safety risk assessments and control measures, are the responsibility of managers in accordance with the Council's Health and Safety Policy.
- 2.4 It can be seen from both a procedural and physical perspective that significant progress is being made on the safe evacuation of disabled people. The current procedural arrangements are relevant to all disabled people, including those who are hearing impaired. However, physical measures to assist hearing impaired people to evacuate buildings safely are also being investigated. Any proposed adjustments will be subject to consultation.

- 2.5 To ensure a more structured approach to evacuation issues is taken in the future, a Fire Evacuation Group has also been formed. The Group, which contains health and safety, building and disabled people's access specialists, will advise the Council on evacuation issues to ensure a consistent and structured approach to this important issue is maintained.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications

## Appendix 1

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Financial

- 1.1 None arising directly from this report.
- 1.2 A number of the physical adjustments have been funded from the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) - Access Improvement Programme.

#### Legal

- 2.1 Access to and egress from buildings is covered by the provisions of the DDA 1995.
- 2.2 The Council has a duty under Health and Safety legislation to ensure the safe evacuation of both employees and visitors to its buildings.

#### Personnel

3. None.

#### Equalities Impact

4. An equalities impact assessment of the procedural and physical adjustments already implemented or proposed has not been undertaken. However, the advice of lead officers in disabled people's issues has, wherever possible, been followed. Such an approach is a demonstration of the Council's commitment to deliver improved evacuation processes for disabled people, both as employees and visitors.

#### Corporate Themes and Priorities

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's Objectives of **protecting and supporting people and a healthy environment**.